

Internship Policy – Clinical

Clinical internship applicants must submit a program for internship that includes a Board approved intern supervisor and an appropriate internship setting(s). The applicant must demonstrate to the Board's satisfaction that the internship position is at an appropriate site for clinical practice pursuant to NRS 641.150. The internship program must be an integral part of the agency's philosophy and service delivery. The supervisor must submit a plan of supervision specific to intern abilities and the practice setting which describes how the intern will gain the skills necessary to diagnose, assess and treat mental and emotional conditions and gain the skills and professional conduct necessary for continuing competency.

For the purposes of licensure in Nevada, clinical practice in the area of psychotherapeutic methods and techniques includes, but is not limited to, (1) the use of assessments, i.e. mental health status assessments; (2) determination of diagnosis, i.e. using the DSM IV; (3) development of treatment plans with explicit goals; (4) achievement of goals through the use of one or more intervention approaches, i.e. brief and long-term psychotherapy, family and group therapies, crisis interventions; (5) documentation and review of treatment outcomes. Additionally, the Board looks at the applicant's practice site for information of the client population, typical presenting problems/diagnoses of the clients and whether the position requires a knowledge of psychopharmacology. **An applicant has the burden of demonstrating that a position constitutes clinical social work and is appropriate as a learning setting.**

1. The internship site must be in an agency that has a clinical program in place that would be appropriate for the educational needs of an internship. If the intern supervisor is off site, the site must be able to designate a clinical supervisor on site that is a licensed mental health professional. On site supervisor must coordinate with Board approved supervisor regarding intern practice issues and concerns. An intern may not engage in direct practice unless a supervisor or an agency designated licensed mental health professional is available for immediate consultation. Although it is preferable that supervisor be on site, other provisions for immediate consultation may include, but are not limited to, the use of cellular phones, pagers, and presence of co-therapists or clinical teams particularly when there is a high risk of violence, verbal hostility, or intern isolation during the provision of clinical services.

The clinical social work intern must understand concepts relating to risk and safety issues in clinical situations and how to use safety procedures to protect themselves and their clients. To ensure that the interns are trained in and demonstrate the ability to assess and function safely in emergency situations, the internship supervisor and agency site must address the following:

2. That the safety of the client and the intern are addressed through the use of safety and risk assessments and by the establishment of related safety policies and procedures;
 3. That included in policies and procedures is an emergency protocol for access to the internship supervisor when such situations take place;
 4. That a plan be developed for assessing an intern/s readiness for competent autonomous practice in relation to such safety and risk factors and that this assessment be incorporated into the intern's first quarterly report to the Board;
 5. That the agency and intern supervisor will ensure that during the first quarter of the internship (or longer if deemed necessary), a mental health professional must be available on site during the provision of direct service by the intern. If the provision of clinical services occur off-site, a mental health professional must accompany the intern during the first quarter of the internship or longer if deemed necessary. Additionally, the supervisor will make provision for the opportunity of participation and observation of intern's practice regardless of where the services are provided throughout the remainder of the internship program. A waiver of this last provision may be granted if intern has recent clinical experience from another site or for good cause.
2. An agency job description must be submitted with the application. If description does not match intern application description, the applicant must obtain a letter of explanation from the agency. Any change of position requires Board approval. A job description of new position should be submitted with application for change.
 3. Agency, intern and supervisor must be aware that the site(s) is subject to Board review at any time. Agency must give Board permission to conduct site visits. If a site is found not meet the requirements as described above, Board may terminate internship. The Board will give intern 30 days to close cases. If internship is terminated, intern will immediately notify clients in writing and seek the transfer, referral or continuation of services for the client to minimize possible adverse effects.
 4. The Board may limit hours acceptable at any site if it determines that the intern is not gaining the requisite skills necessary to be licensed as a Clinical Social Worker and require the intern to show competence in specific areas necessary to be a Clinical Social Worker.